CLAIMS:

1.   A communications device comprising a receiver for information coming from a sender who or which is likely to send an important message, characterized in that it comprises means for receiving said important messages, means for indicating their receipt to the user, and means for supplying the sender with an acknowledgement of the receipt of said

5   message of importance when said indicating means have been put into operation.

2.   A device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, in the event of the acknowledgement of receipt not being sent, an alerting message is sent back to enable the sender to envisage other actions.

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3.   A device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the message of importance is transmitted while retaining compatibility with ETSI standard ES 201 912.

4.   A device as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a code for message of

15   importance is placed in a TP-DCS field.

5.   A device as claimed in claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the text of the message of importance is placed in a TP-UD field.

20   6.   A method of transmitting important information that is handled by means of a device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 and which comes from a sender using a message emitting center, characterized in that it comprises the following steps of:
    -   establishing a connection of the short message type,
    -   sending a message from a short message center with an indication showing its

25   importance,
    -   receiving an acknowledgement of receipt coming from said device,
    -   releasing the short-message type connection.

7.   A method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that, in the event of an
acknowledgement of receipt not being received, the sender is alerted so that he or it can take
other actions.

8.   A method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the messages are
compatible with ETSI standard ES 201 912.

9.   A system for transmitting important messages that uses the method claimed in
any of claims 6 to 8, characterized in that it comprises a center for emitting important
messages that is able to send out such a message to a plurality of users.